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TO: M.H. Goldsmith
 Select Committee on Assassination
 House of Representatives
 Room 3381 House Annex # 2
 2nd & D Streets S.W., Wash., D.C. 20515

FROM: Office of Legislative Counsel
 Central Intelligence Agency
 Room 7 D 35
 Washington, D.C. 20505
 27 April 1978

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	20 Mar 78	Notes of Hardway & Goldsmith & Wolf Dillenger & Gestatner C000253-0000275				SECRET

20 Mar 78-1546

RECEIPT

SIGNATURE (acknowledging receipt of above documents)

DATE OF RECEIPT

DRM 37728
4-76

RETURN TO

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INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Identifying Information:

Mrs. BARBARA DILLINGER.

Name MR. Herbert Gestetner

Address _____

City/State _____

Date of Birth _____

Social Security _____

REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED
DATE 3/20/78
PLACE CIA/HQ

Telephone _____

(I) or S _____

Spouse _____

Children _____

Physical Description:

Height _____

Color Eyes _____ Hair _____

Weight _____

Special Characteristics _____

Ethnic Group _____

Personal History:

a. Present Employment: _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

b. Criminal Record

1. Arrests _____

2. Convictions _____

Additional Personal Information:

a. Relative(s): Name _____

Address _____

b. Area frequented: _____

c. Remarks: _____

Investigator DAN HADDIX, Mickey Goldsmith & Betsy Wolf.

Date 3/20/78 Form #4-B

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Mickey Goldsmith opened
the interview by explaining
the release letter and the
mandate of the House Select
Committee on Assassinations
to [Dillinger] and [Bergtman]

Mr. [Bergtman] said that
he had been [the head of the
Soviet Section] of the Mexico
City Station in 1963. His main
duty was to get information on
Soviet personnel and their
activities for recognition
purposes and espionage/
counter-espionage activities.

In line with these goals Mr.
[Bergtman] was responsible
for processing the product
of [telephone] photographic
and physical surveillance
of the Soviet Embassy and
Soviet personnel. Mr. [Bergtman]
was also responsible for
obtaining information through
direct contacts with Soviet
personnel and thorough
agents who were in contact
with Soviet personnel.

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1 Mrs [Dillenger's] main duty
was reading the transcript
[of the telephone tap operation]
She received these transcripts
once a day and would review
them. Anything of importance
or interest would be brought
to Mr. [Gestetner's] attention.

Both Mr [Gestetner] and
Mrs [Dillenger] remembered
that they received all the
transcripts [from all the
taps] on the Soviet Embassy.
This included the Spanish
and the English transcripts
although the English
were usually received later
than the Spanish ones.

Mrs [Dillenger] indicated that
she had a "working knowledge"
of Spanish.

Mr [Gestetner] was
responsible for reporting
the information he developed.
He indicated that a report
would either be written by
himself, Mr. [Dillenger] or a
[reports office].

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3
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In 1963 Mrs [Dillenger] was working [on a part-time, contract basis]. She indicated that the transcripts were read daily as a matter of routine. The photo production was not reviewed unless [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] employee [REDACTED] referred it to

them. [REDACTED] + DIL-ENGER Best known is received copy carbon copies of the transcripts on yellow paper extracts from the transcripts were put into appropriate subject or "P" files. Both were sure that a chronological file [REDACTED] of transcripts was kept. They were less sure but thought that such a file was also kept on the production of the photo operation. Mrs [Dillenger] remembered that they did keep a subject file on Soviet contacts. Subject files were designated by a four part number. (ex: 00-00-0-0)

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Both Dillinger and Gestetner indicated that nothing was destroyed while Jim Scott was Chief of Station. They indicated that materials were probably destroyed after he left in 1969.

They received the transcripts from either [redacted] or [redacted]. Some of the transcripts were in Spanish and some were in English. Mr. Gestetner indicated that he had a close working relationship with [redacted] and relied on him for personality assessments on Soviet personnel. He said that he had nothing to do with getting the tapes and/or transcripts to or from [redacted] except in those rare instances when there was no one else to do it. Dillinger and Gestetner remembered that information [from the tapes] would usually

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- 5 -

have been reported within
a day or two of receipt
of the transcripts.

They remembered that
the tape surveillance was
constant. They also
remembered that the
photo surveillance was
constant except for in-
stances where it would
be down for security
reasons or equipment
malfunction. They said
that the photo operation
attempted to get a picture
of every foreigner in
contact with the Embassy.
They said that the photog-
raphers had an "uncanny
ability" to pick out foreigners.

The transcripts that
they remembered receiving
were literal transcriptions.
They had never heard of
summaries of the conver-
sations being prepared.
Mr. [REDACTED] gave his
personality assessments orally.

0000258

-6-
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or in writing separate
from the transcripts. Mr.
Bentzen does not remember
marginal notations but
did indicate that [redacted]

[Agent] [redacted] had made the note
about Oswald speaking
broken Russian.

[Dillinger and Bentzen]
indicated that they did,
on occasion, work closely
with [redacted] [ear, phone]
on things of interest. There
was not close contact
between the Cuban and
Soviet Operations.

[Dillinger and Bentzen]
indicated that they routinely
saw all the transcripts
from the Soviet operations.
They indicated that [redacted]
did not, as a rule, make
notations on the transcripts.
As a rule he made his
notations in a separate
note or report. Mr. [Bentzen]
did indicate that [redacted] [ear]
did make the notation.

0000259

- 7 -
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about Oswald's Russian.

He said that he had never
~~not~~ ordered [redacted] not to
make marginal comments.

Mr. Gestetner said that

[Accts] [redacted] was an exact

(transcript, "he never determined
nations on his own as to
whether something was
relevant to counter-intelli-
gence, counter-espionage, etc.)

They indicated that every
conversation was transcribed.
They could not recall the
notation "(previously
transcribed)"

They said that the
unilateral taps were not
directed at the Soviet
Embassy but at the private
residences of Soviet officials.

Mr. Gestetner said that
there were no penetration
agents in either the Soviet
Consulate or the Military
Attaché's office.

Dillenger and Gestetner
said that they had no 000260

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contact with anyone involved in the outside operation other than [redacted]

Agent [redacted]

[redacted] These contacts were restricted to [redacted] meetings, discussion of personality evaluations, and on rare occasions transmittal of the tapes or transcripts. Mr. Gestetner indicated that [redacted] involved

Agent [redacted]

[redacted] more than any other translator and that he was more than adequately "competant, reliable and honest."

Agent [redacted]

They both said that they knew Dave Phillips and that he was Chief of Covert Action at [redacted] time. They remembered that he had been replaced [redacted] as Chief of Cuban Operations but were unsure of the time. They described Phillips as an aggressive, active, successful person. They said that he

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would have had access to everything about Oswald if he had been interested because he was close to ~~Kim Scott~~.

They said that [REDACTED] was professionally qualified for photography. He did not run the photo operation. His job was processing and printing the photos in the Embassy.

Dillenger and Sestini said that Jack Whitten was the head of the Mexico desk and that [REDACTED] to the best of their recollection also worked on the Mexico desk. They said that the info they usually reported would go to CIS or SR. All info reported would have gone to the Mexico desk. The information, cable would not have gone higher unless there was some controversy or higher interest involved.

A report of a foreigner visiting a foreign embassy would not,

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in Mr. Gestetner's opinion, flag higher interests create the controversy necessary to attract higher attention. Mr. Gestetner indicated that such a report was almost mundanely routine, especially in late summer.

They said that [redacted]

~~Employee~~ [redacted] was responsible for repairing and maintaining the audio equipment.

~~Employee~~ [redacted] was an analyst in the Cuban section.

[redacted] was an outside agent involved in the recruitment and running of agents. He worked for Gestetner.

TED WAKS

[redacted] was part, as was [redacted] of the "click" that enjoyed Scott's absolute confidence and was involved in running the sensitive surveillance operations.

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11
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Employee [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was also in this group. Bestchner thinks he may have seen the photo surveillance of the Soviet compound.

Employee [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] saw the physical surveillance team.

Employee [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was a technician involved in most of the [REDACTED] operations, if not all of them.

Mr. Bestchner said that the only time he saw the actual reels of tape was when he was interested in hearing one of the conversations. He said that the tapes were not kept very long before re-use.

Agent [REDACTED]

Mr. Bestchner said that [REDACTED] would routinely identify participants in a conversation if he could and would indicate the ID in the transcript. He does not recall ever instructing [REDACTED] not to make marginal comments.

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In preparing reports, Dillenger & Kestetner said, other sources of info would be routinely checked due to their training as intelligence officers.

Kestetner and Dillenger were asked if they had any independent recollection of how Oswald first came to their attention. Dillenger indicated that her memory was that the first information that she had received about Oswald was that he was seeking a visa. Mr. Kestetner indicated that he had reviewed the file prior to our interview and his recollection was that the first notice that they had was from a transcript of Oswald's conversation with a guard on October 1st about a visa. They were then shown the October 1st transcript.

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Dillenger did not recall this transcript as the first one she saw. After seeing the cable she sent to HQ on 10/8/41, said that this transcript must have been the ~~original~~ because of the similarity of the info. When asked whether there was a reference to a visa in the conversation, she acknowledged that there was not such a reference. When asked to explain her memory she said that the reference to a telegram to Washington and the fact that he was talking to the consulate had made it obvious to her that he was seeking a visa.

Dillenger was asked what action she took after receiving this transcript. She said that she would have had already seen the prior transcripts and may have rechecked them. Because of the absence of

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info from prior trans-
cripts in the cable
Bestlessness suggested that
some of the prior trans-
cripts may have been
unavailable because they
were being sorted around
the station. An examina-
tion of some of the prior
transcripts revealed routing
indications that Dillenger
acknowledged writing.

Dillenger had no recollection
of checking the photos. After
Checking the station's files
for further info on Oswald,
she said, she wrote the
cable (Mex 8453) and, at the
same time, wrote a memo
to the legat. Dillenger acknow-
ledged that the routing notations
would have been written
on the transcript when
she first received them.

Bestlessness acknowledged
that a filing instruction
directing one of the 9/27
conversations to the Oswald

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"P" file was in his hand-writing. He indicated that this notation would have been made at the time that the "P" file was opened. Both ~~testimony~~ ^{RETR} Dillenger acknowledged that the connection between the conversations was noted prior to the assassination.

When Dillenger was asked about the paragraph in Mexi 645-3 about the photo she said that she must have checked the photo. ~~RETR~~ She was shown a photo of the M.M. and said she thought that that was the man she was trying to describe. She could not explain why a photo was chosen from October first but was sure, since Oswald had indicated previous visits in the intercepted conversation, that the photo production from earlier days would

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also have been reviewed.

She also said that

~~Exhibit~~ [redacted] may have

added this paragraph

The group then shown

the HQ response to Mex 645-3
(DIR 74830). They speculated

that Scott had written

"sic" after "Henry" to indicate
that his name should be
noted as "Lee Henry Oswald"

as well as "Lee Oswald". They

said that they could tell

by the nature of the

notations that they were

made when the cable was
received and not after

the assassination. They

acknowledged that Scott

had ordered the opening

of a "P" file on the routing

slip and that such a

file would have been

opened near the time of

that instruction. Dillenger

acknowledged writing the

notations that the dissemina-

nation requested had been done.

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Dillinger said that the memo from Scott to the Ambassador dated 10/16/63 was the dissemination she had written. When asked how she had "determined" that ~~she~~ Oswald had spoken to Kostikov she said that she could not remember but she was sure she must have rechecked it and had proof as otherwise she would not have used such certain language. When asked why they the memo said that there was no clarifying info on Oswald's "request" Bestener said that it was clear that they had only been the one October transcript. When reminded that they had routinely seen all transcripts and had made filing and routing instructions on some of them prior to the date of this memo

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they were unable to explain this assertion in the memo. Dillinger did say that "they had no need to know all those other details."

Both Dillinger and Gostetner said that it was very unlikely that this had been discussed with Dave Phillips.

Gostetner acknowledged sending Mexi 6534 requesting a photo of Oswald. He does not recall receiving a response to this cable. When asked whether he had ever heard that, or any rumors to the effect that, HQ had a photo of Oswald, Gostetner first answered in the positive. He then retracted his answer and denied ever knowing or hearing a rumor that HQ had had a photo. Gostetner said that if HQ had a photo of Oswald, taken by a tourist in Russia

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and obtained by OCD that he would expect it to be in the 201 file. N.

Gestetner acknowledged writing Mex 7023. He explained giving the date of the photo as October 28 by saying that there can be errors. He noted that the inference was that the date was September 28.

Neither Gestetner nor Dillinger could recall specific details about the post-assassination review of the surveillance materials. They said that the review of the photos would have been done by [redacted] employee.

They were asked about the reference in Mex 7023 about the tape of the first conversation being reported erased before the second one was received. They said that they would not find this unusual.

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Gestetner said that he did not know whether the conversation of 9/28 was reported before or after ~~that~~ ^{when} he learned that this conversation had been connected to Oswald by the Mexicans.

Gestetner could not explain why Mexi 7033 ~~(A)~~ which he acknowledged writing said that all info available had been reported ~~after~~ the 9/27 conversations, the ~~visit~~ had not been reported. He can not explain why Mexi 7034, written by Allen White, says that the only known visit by LHO to an embassy was to the Cuban one on 9/28/63.

Gestetner ~~said~~ ^{RECORDED} acknowledge that it ~~would~~ have been very unusual for LHO to have visited the Embassies at least 5 times and not have been picked up by the photo

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operation

Gestetner continually reemphasized that HQ's visit + the report was a routine matter. He said that it ~~was never~~ considered as anything other than routine prior to the assassination. Hence, it was not surprising to him that HQ did not respond to his request for a photo.

Gestetner said that the nature of Oswald's visits to the Cuban and Soviet Embassy alone is enough to rule out the possibility of a foreign conspiracy involving either the USSR or Cuba.

When Brown asked the "previously transcribed" notation in the 10/1 transcript Gestetner said that it meant they were in Spanish. Mr. Gestetner said that it would be

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2-2

Very unusual that
Karramessine ~~had~~ released
the 10/10 DIR.

As to the possibility
of conspiracy he said
that we could rule out
a foreign one. He assured
me that he was aware
of no "hanky-panky"
in Mexico. He said that
he had never seen
any indication of
Agency involvement
but he had never
heard of Karramessine
involvement @ the 10/10
cable before.

We asked them not
to discuss any of what
we had covered with
them with anyone
other than HSCA
staff members.

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